

# News from the Croatian Association of Forensic Stomatologists

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# NEWS FROM THE CROATIAN ASSOCIATION OF FORENSIC STOMATOLOGISTS

From the academic year 2017/2018 the Department of Dental Anthropology, School of Dental Medicine University of Zagreb, has one new member – visiting professor G. Richard Scott, a

a focus on human tooth crown and root morphology.

Professor Scott visited School of Dental Medicine from October 22 till October 26, 2018, and gave a series of lectures



Figure 1 In the Dean's office. From left: Lada Prišlić, Marin Vodanović, Jelena Dumančić, G. Richard Scott, the Dean of the School of Dental Medicine – Zrinka Tarle, Ivana Savić Pavičin and Hrvoje Brkić

Foundation Professor of Anthropology at the University of Nevada, Reno. Professor Scott is a world-renowned specialist in dental anthropology, with

in Tooth Morphology with Dental Anthropology.

A special lecture was dedicated to application of dental anthropology in

forensic odontology: "Estimating Ancestry from Dental Morphology: The Development and Testing of rASUDAS". The lecture was attended by undergraduate and postgraduate students who are enrolled in Forensic Dentistry course, and also by the students of archaeology from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. The rASUDAS is a new web-based application that estimates the ancestry of unknown individuals based on their combination of tooth crown and root traits. The application utilizes 21 independent traits scored following the Arizona State University Dental Anthropology System (ASUDAS). The program is to be validated in forensic

Friday was dedicated to visiting our earlier relatives – the Krapina Neandertals at the Croatian Museum of Natural History, which treasures the world's largest Neandertal fossil collection. We are thankful to Davorka Radovčić, curator of the collection, for this opportunity.

Love and passion that professor Scott shows for dental anthropology was inspiring and we are looking forward to his future visits and collaboration.

On November 17, 2018, a symposium entitled "How to prevent patients' complaints and law suits" was held in Hotel Dubrovnik in Zagreb. The



Figure 2 G. Richard Scott and Jelena Dumančić with students of dental medicine

cases and the reference sample is to be appended with modern skeletal data, however, application already proved the potential of dental morphology in ancestry estimation in forensic contexts.

symposium was organized by School of Dental Medicine, University of Zagreb and Croatian Association of Forensic Stomatologists, and led by professor Hrvoje Brkić, as a part of continuous education for dental medicine doctors.

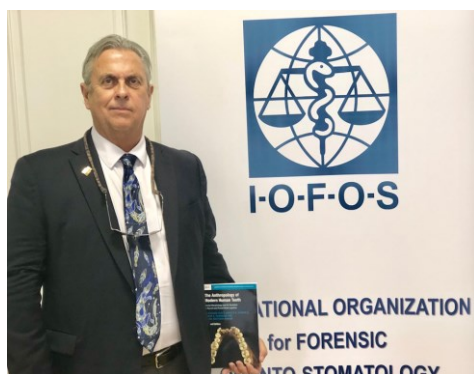


Figure 3 G Richard Scott with his new textbook: *The Anthropology of Modern Human Teeth*.

Symposium was attended also by dental students and nurses. At the opening of the symposium professor Zrinka Tarle, the dean of the School of Dental Medicine, addressed the audience. The first lecture by professor Hrvoje Brkić, was on negligence of doctors of dental medicine. Professor Darko Macan presented several cases of medico-legal jurisprudence from the perspective of forensic expert witness.

Professor Marin Vodanović presented strategies for risk management in dental practice. Professor Nenad Polgar discussed professional ethics in dental medicine and professor Jelena Dumančić covered topics of informed consent and doctor's duty of truth telling. Complaints and law suits were discussed also from the perspective of judge, by Mrs. Jadranka Travaš. Insurance company representatives presented various options of insurance of professional responsibility. Colleagues who attended symposium recognized importance of the topic for their everyday practice and were interested to hear more case reports and practical advice in resolving patient's complaints. The symposium is planned also for the year 2019.